

The annual ASEAN foreign minister's conference brings together the Foreign Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand with their counterparts from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Japan, and the European Community. Canada has been a privileged interlocutor of the Association since 1977.

Discussions this year are expected to focus on regional security issues, in particular developments in Indochina and prospects for an early withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Mr. Clark will brief the meeting on the Toronto Economic Summit, emphasizing the issues of special interest to ASEAN such as the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), and the Mid-term Ministerial Review Conference in Montreal, December, 1988; trade in agricultural products, and the Canada-USA Free Trade Agreement.

The ASEAN countries possess an enviable record of economic growth, exceeding virtually all other regions in the developing world. Canada's trade with ASEAN amounted to \$1.833 billion in 1987, with a balance of \$16 million in ASEAN's favour.

While in Thailand, Mr. Clark will sign an Economic Cooperation Agreement to provide further impetus to the growing economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries. Two way trade in 1987 amounted to \$400 million, and is expected to reach \$500 million in 1988. He will sign several agreements dealing with development cooperation projects in the natural resources and environmental sectors, and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Clark will also exchange legal instruments to bring into effect the Transfer of Offenders Treaty which Canada and Thailand signed in 1983.